

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 00463 302247Z
ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE QYSHDC PRIORITY 6833

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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DEPT ALSO PASS TO AID/LA/MRSD FOR GEORGE PHILLIPS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB PINT ES

SUBJ: UNION COMUNAL SALVADORENA (UCS): EMBOFFS MEET WITH MINISTER OF LABOR

REF: SAN SALVADOR 0182

SUMMARY: IN CONVERSATION WITH MINLABOR ON JANUARY 25, EMBOFFS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GOES WOULD HELP TO RESOLVE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE THE INTERNAL POLITICAL DISPUTE WITHIN THE UCS. THEY ALSO CONVEYED THE DESIRE OF AFL-CIO AND AIFLD OFFICIALS TO MEET WITH GOES OFFICIALS IN NEAR FUTURE. MINLABOR SAID HE

WAS HOPEFUL INTERNAL UCS DISPUTE WOULD BE RESOLVED SOON, AND THAT HE WOULD BE GLAD TO MEET WITH AIFLD OFFICIALS AFTER THERE HAD BEEN A FINAL RESOLUTION OF DISPUTE. END SUMMARY.

1. DCM, POLITICAL OFFICER, PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR, AND LABOR OFFICER MET ON JANUARY 25 WITH MINISTER OF LABOR COLONEL ROBERTO ESCOBAR GARCIA. AMONG TOPICS DISCUSSED WERE INTERNAL DISPUTE WITHIN THE UCS AND THE CONTINUING INTEREST OF

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AFL-CIO AND AIFLD IN UCS MATTERS.

2. DCM TOLD MINLABOR THAT THE EMBASSY WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE GOES COULD HELP TO RESOLVE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE THE CONTINUING DISPUTE OVER THE DECEMBER 18 ELECTIONS, IN ORDER THAT THE EMBASSY AND OTHERS COULD BEGIN THE TASK OF CONSIDERING FUTURE PROGRAMS FOR HELPING THE UCS

TO OVERCOME ITS ACCOUNTING AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES.
HE SAID HE HOPED THAT ELECTION DISPUTE WOULD BE RESOLVED
IN A WAY WHICH PRESERVED THE "INDEPENDENCE" OF THE UCS.
DCM REFERRED TO JANUARY 20 VISIT TO EL SALVADOR OF
MICHAEL BOGGS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE AFL-CIO'S
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND PAUL SOMOGYI,
DIRECTOR OF AIFLD/GUATEMALA. DCM STATED THAT IN HIS
CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFFS, BOGGS WANTED EMBASSY TO CONVEY
MESSAGE TO GOES OFFICIALS THAT AIFLD WAS IN THE PROCESS
OF REVAMPING ITS PROGRAMS OF ASSISTANCE TO AGRARIAN
ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE UCS AND THAT IT CONSIDERED THE
FORMS OF FUTURE ASSISTANCE TO THE UCS, THE PERSONNEL TO
BE INVOLVED, AND OTHER MATTERS TO BE "COMPLETELY
NEGOTIABLE". HE SAID THAT THE AFL-CIO AND AIFLD WANTED
TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS IN THE NEAR FUTURE WITH APPROPRIATE
GOES OFFICIALS INCLUDING MINLABOR.

3. MINLABOR REPLIED THAT THE GOES WANTED TO "HELP AND
PROTECT" THE UCS AND WAS CONCERNED TO PREVENT PRESENT
DISPUTE FROM DESTROYING THE UCS, WHICH IT HOPES WILL MAKE A
VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE GOVERNMENT'S AGRARIAN
PROGRAM. HE ADDED THAT THE GOES SUBCOMMITTEE LOOKING
INTO THE DECEMBER 18 ELECTIONS HAD DRAWN UP A PRE-
LIMINARY REPORT BUT THAT IT HAD NOT YET BEEN CONSIDERED
BY THE FULL COMMISSION. HOWEVER, HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT
A FINAL DECISION COULD BE REACHED "SOON". MINLABOR
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COMMENTED THAT ANY DISCUSSIONS THAT HE AND OTHER GOES
OFFICIALS MIGHT HAVE WITH AIFLD OFFICIALS IN EL SALVADOR
SHOULD AWAIT A FINAL RESOLUTION OF THE ELECTIONS QUESTION.
HOWEVER, HE INDICATED HIS SCHEDULE PERMITTING, HE WOULD
BE HAPPY TO MEET WITH MR BOGGS AND OTHERS ON THE TRIP
TO THE U.S. THAT HE PLANS TO MAKE THE WEEK OF JANUARY
29. (HE WILL BE IN WASHINGTON FOR "PRAYER MEETING"
ON FEB 2 WITH MINISTERS PUBLIC HEALTH AND ECONOMY.)

L4. NOTE: IN A PHONE CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF ON
JANUARY 26, SOMOGYI SAID THAT THE EL SALVADORAN EMBASSY
IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY AFL-CIO AND THAT AN
APPOINTMENT HAD BEEN SET UP FOR MINLABOR TO MEET WITH
BOGGS AND POSSIBLY OTHER OFFICIALS. MEMCONS ON THE
CONVERSATIONS BY EMBOFFS WITH BOGGS AND MINLABOR WILL BE
POUCHED.
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